MARVEL
#5
WALKER
WALTA
BELLAIRE
TAKE BACK JUSTICE!
OCCUPY
avengers

THERE IS A MAN. AND IF YOU CAN FIND HIM, AND IF HE BELIEVES IN YOUR PLIGHT, HE AND HIS TEAM WILL DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

SOME CALL THEM OUTLAWS, REBELS, ROBIN HOODS. TO MANY, THEY ARE HEROES. NO POWERS TO SPEAK OF, JUST SKILLS, SMARTS AND THE DRIVE TO PUT THINGS RIGHT.

OCCUPY AVENGERS

A RECENT MISADVENTURE IN CHICAGO EARNED HAWKEYE AND RED WOLF A NEW ALLY IN THE BRILLIANT ROBOTICS EXPERT TILDA JOHNSON--FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE VILLAINOUS DEADLY NIGHTSHADE.

THEY ALSO GOT A SWEET NEW SET OF WHEELS.

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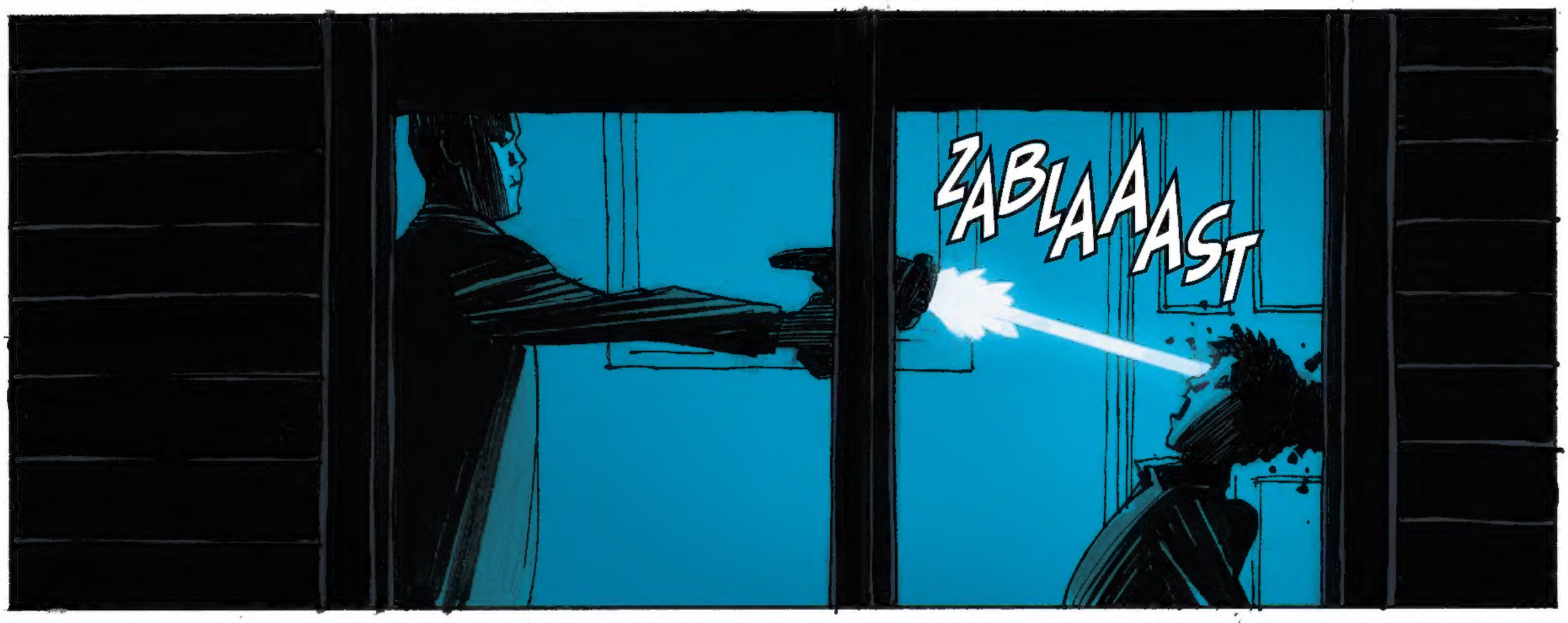
FROZEN OVER, MONTANA.
THREE YEARS AGO.
YOU CAN GO TO HELL!
IT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY...

...BUT YOU'RE ALL THE SAME.
THINKING THERE WILL BE NO CONSEQUENCES.
ZABLAAAST

HARD TIMES, NEVADA.
TWO YEARS AGO.
P-PLEASE... DON'T DO THIS.
YOU LEFT US NO CHOICE.
ZABLAAAST

BLACK ROCK, ARIZONA.
EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO.
...YOU'LL NEVER FIND ALL OF US!
THE OTHERS DON'T MATTER RIGHT NOW...

...THEY WILL ALL PAY FOR THEIR CRIMES SOON ENOUGH.
YOU PAY NOW.


ZABLAAAST

SEARCH EVERYTHING.
CHECK HIS COMPUTER LOG. PHONE RECORDS. SEE IF ANYONE SENT HIM LETTERS. PHOTOGRAPHS.
YOU KNOW THE DRILL. THEY CAN RUN, BUT THEY CAN'T HIDE.

OKENOKE, PENNSYLVANIA.
SIX MONTHS AGO.
TIME TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES.
ZABLAAAST

DUNGSTON, IOWA.
NOW.

THAT SMELL? OH, THAT'D BE THE FERTILIZER PLANT.

SMELLS LIKE $#@&.

Welcome to DUNGSTON
THAT'S THE SMELL OF MONEY!!

I LOVE THIS TOWN.

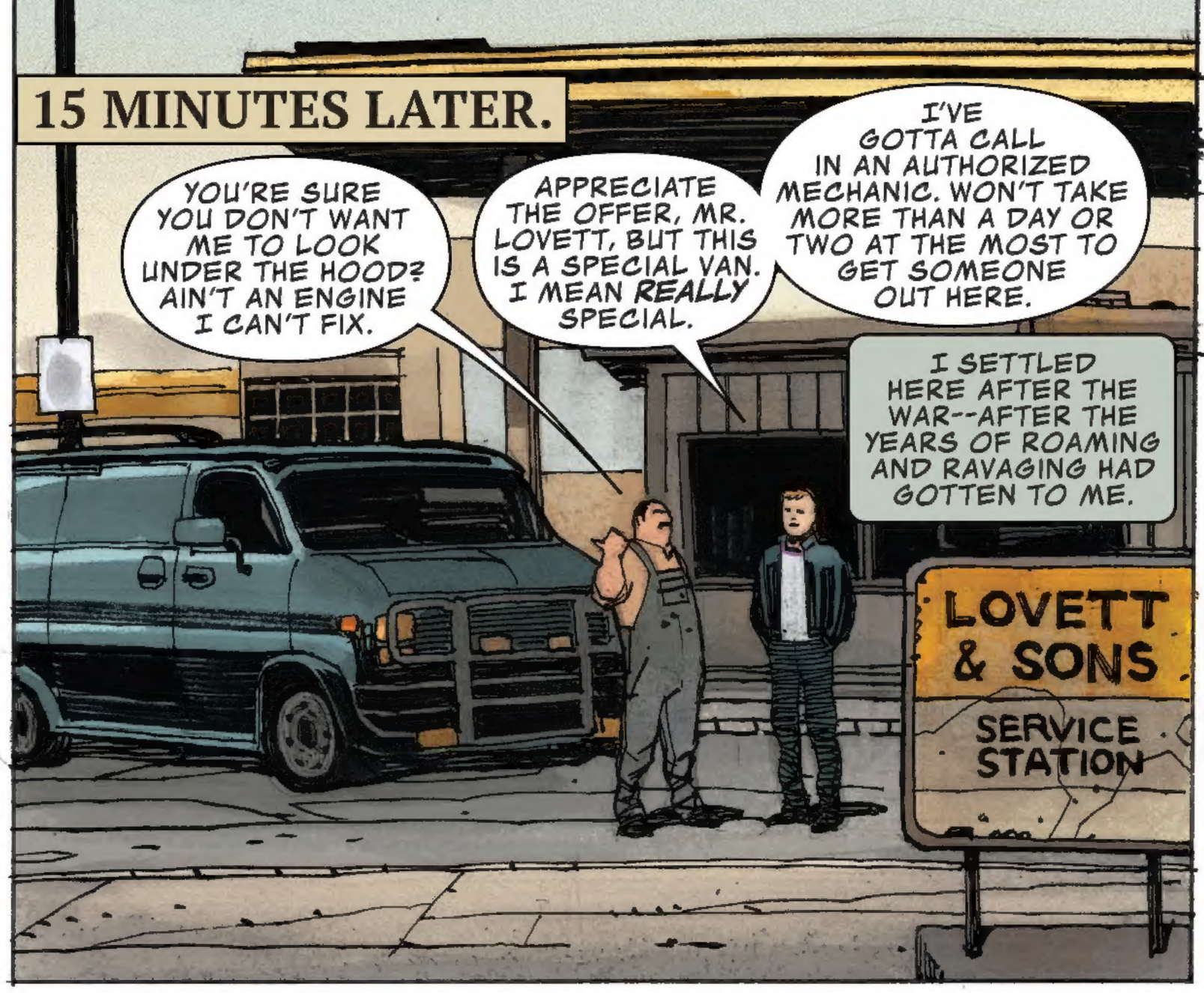
DON'T CARE WHAT ANYBODY SAYS, DUNGSTON IS THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH.

ONCE IN A WHILE WE GET VISITORS PASSING THROUGH-- THEY USUALLY DON'T GET THE CHARM OF DUNGSTON.

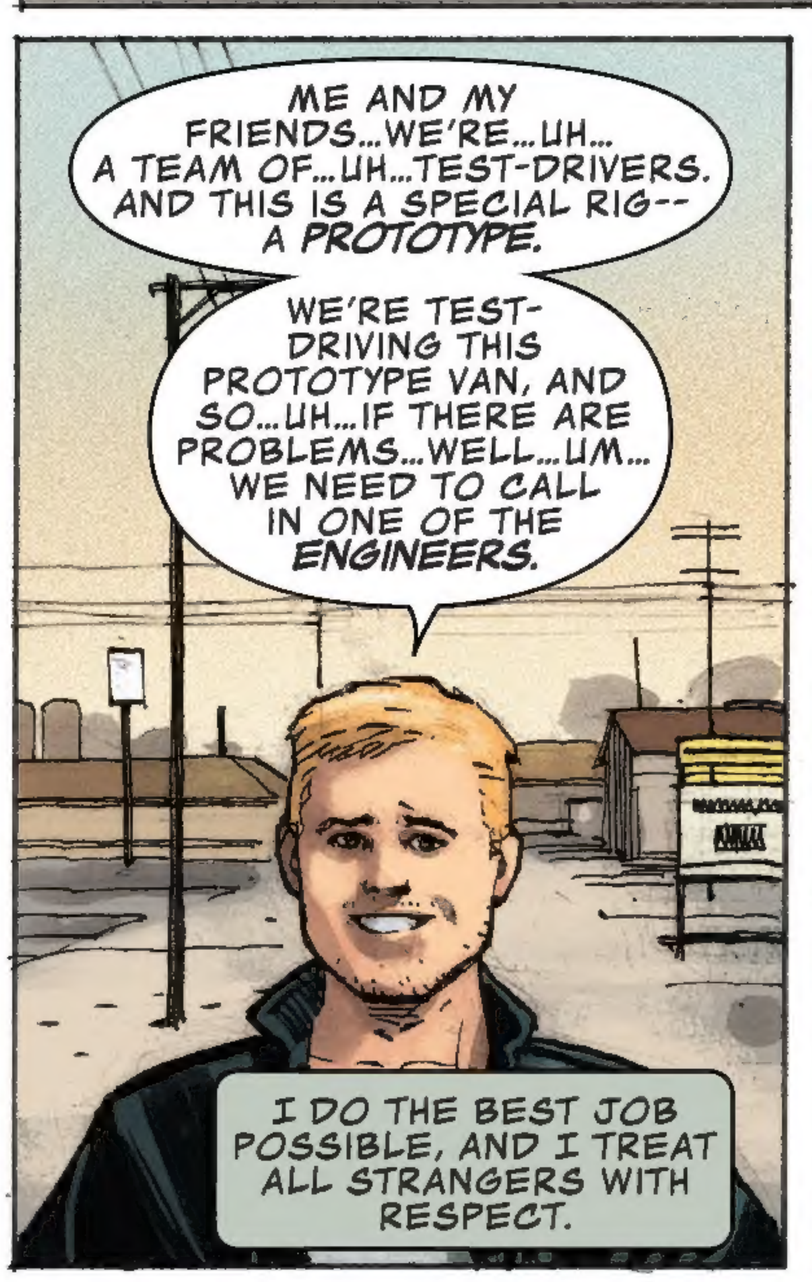
BUT THIS IS MY *HOME*-- WHERE I'VE CARVED OUT MY OWN LITTLE PLACE IN THIS WORLD.

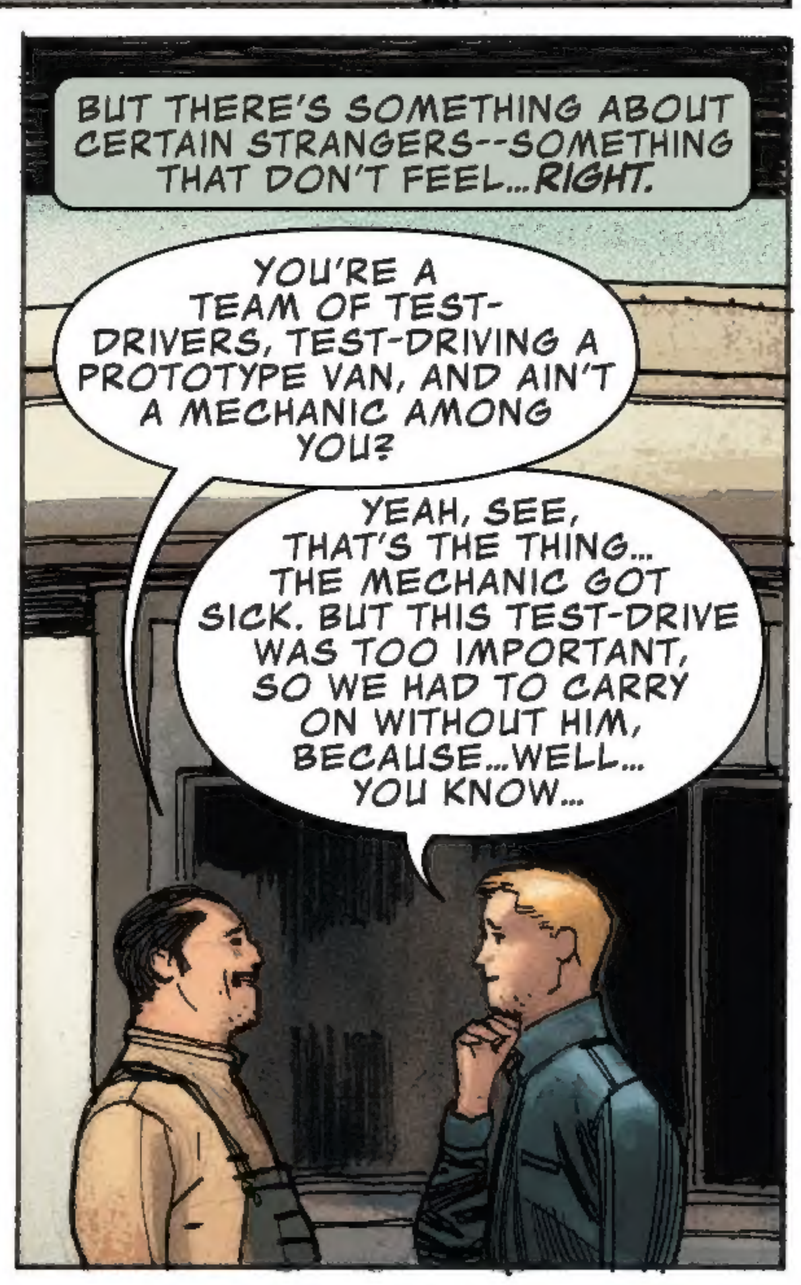
WE PREFER THE TERM *BROWN GOLD*--OR JUST PLAIN MANURE.

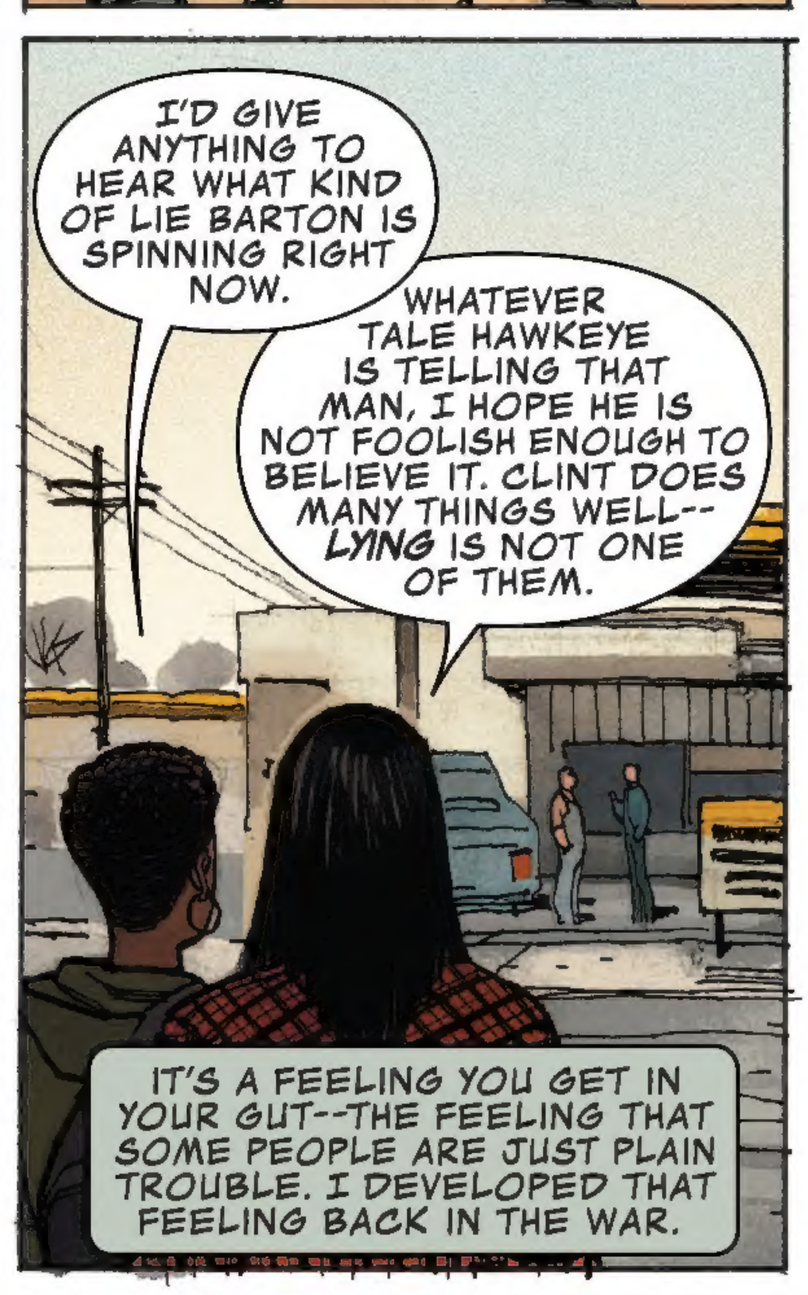
EITHER WAY, LIKE THE SIGN SAYS, THAT'S THE SMELL OF MONEY.

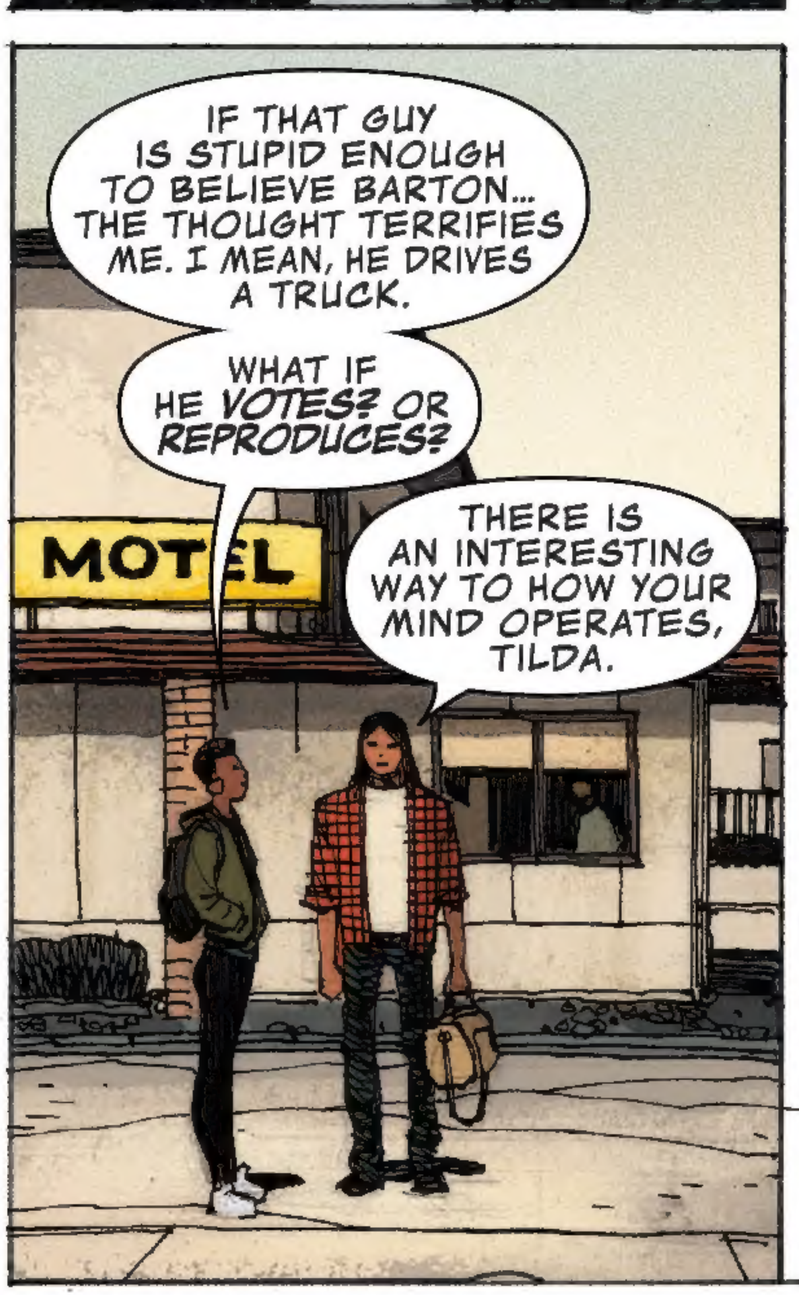

15 MINUTES LATER.
YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO LOOK UNDER THE HOOD? AIN'T AN ENGINE I CAN'T FIX.
APPRECIATE THE OFFER, MR. LOVETT, BUT THIS IS A SPECIAL VAN. I MEAN REALLY SPECIAL.
I'VE GOTTA CALL IN AN AUTHORIZED MECHANIC. WON'T TAKE MORE THAN A DAY OR TWO AT THE MOST TO GET SOMEONE OUT HERE.
I SETTLED HERE AFTER THE WAR--AFTER THE YEARS OF ROAMING AND RAVAGING HAD GOTTEN TO ME.
LOVETT & SONS
SERVICE STATION

WHATEVER YOU SAY.
SEEMS LIKE AN AWFUL LOTTA TROUBLE--BRINGING OUT A SPECIAL MECHANIC AND ALL.
I'M NOT EVEN SURE HOW LONG I'VE BEEN HERE. ALL I KNOW IS THAT I FOUND PEACE.


ME AND MY FRIENDS...WE'RE...UH... A TEAM OF...UH...TEST-DRIVERS. AND THIS IS A SPECIAL RIG-- A PROTOTYPE.
WE'RE TEST-DRIVING THIS PROTOTYPE VAN, AND SO...UH...IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS...WELL...UM... WE NEED TO CALL IN ONE OF THE ENGINEERS.
I DO THE BEST JOB POSSIBLE, AND I TREAT ALL STRANGERS WITH RESPECT.


BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT CERTAIN STRANGERS--SOMETHING THAT DON'T FEEL...RIGHT.
YOU'RE A TEAM OF TEST-DRIVERS, TEST-DRIVING A PROTOTYPE VAN, AND AIN'T A MECHANIC AMONG YOU?
YEAH, SEE, THAT'S THE THING... THE MECHANIC GOT SICK. BUT THIS TEST-DRIVE WAS TOO IMPORTANT, SO WE HAD TO CARRY ON WITHOUT HIM, BECAUSE...WELL... YOU KNOW...

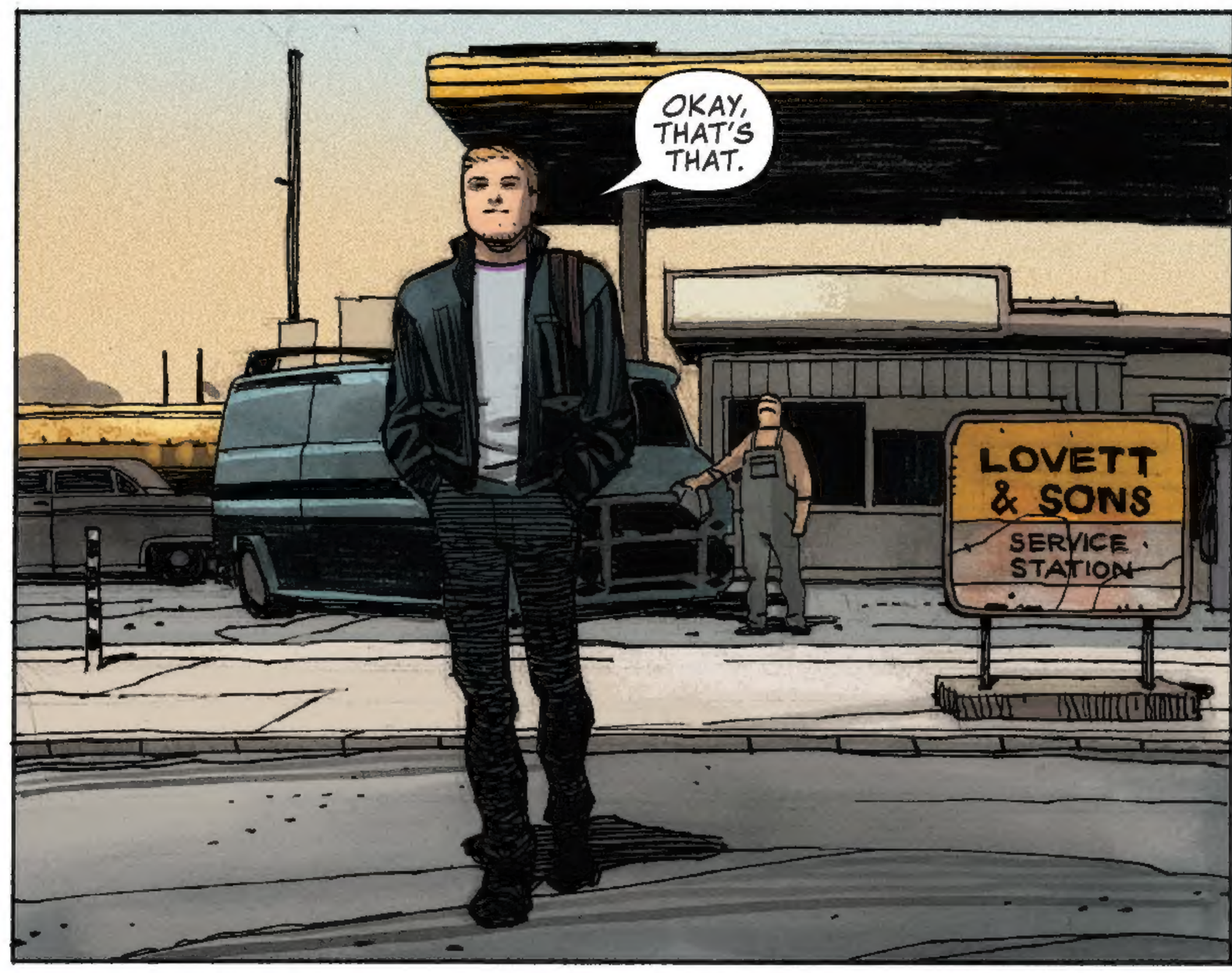

I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO HEAR WHAT KIND OF LIE BARTON IS SPINNING RIGHT NOW.
WHATEVER TALE HAWKEYE IS TELLING THAT MAN, I HOPE HE IS NOT FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE IT. CLINT DOES MANY THINGS WELL-- LYING IS NOT ONE OF THEM.
IT'S A FEELING YOU GET IN YOUR GUT--THE FEELING THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST PLAIN TROUBLE. I DEVELOPED THAT FEELING BACK IN THE WAR.

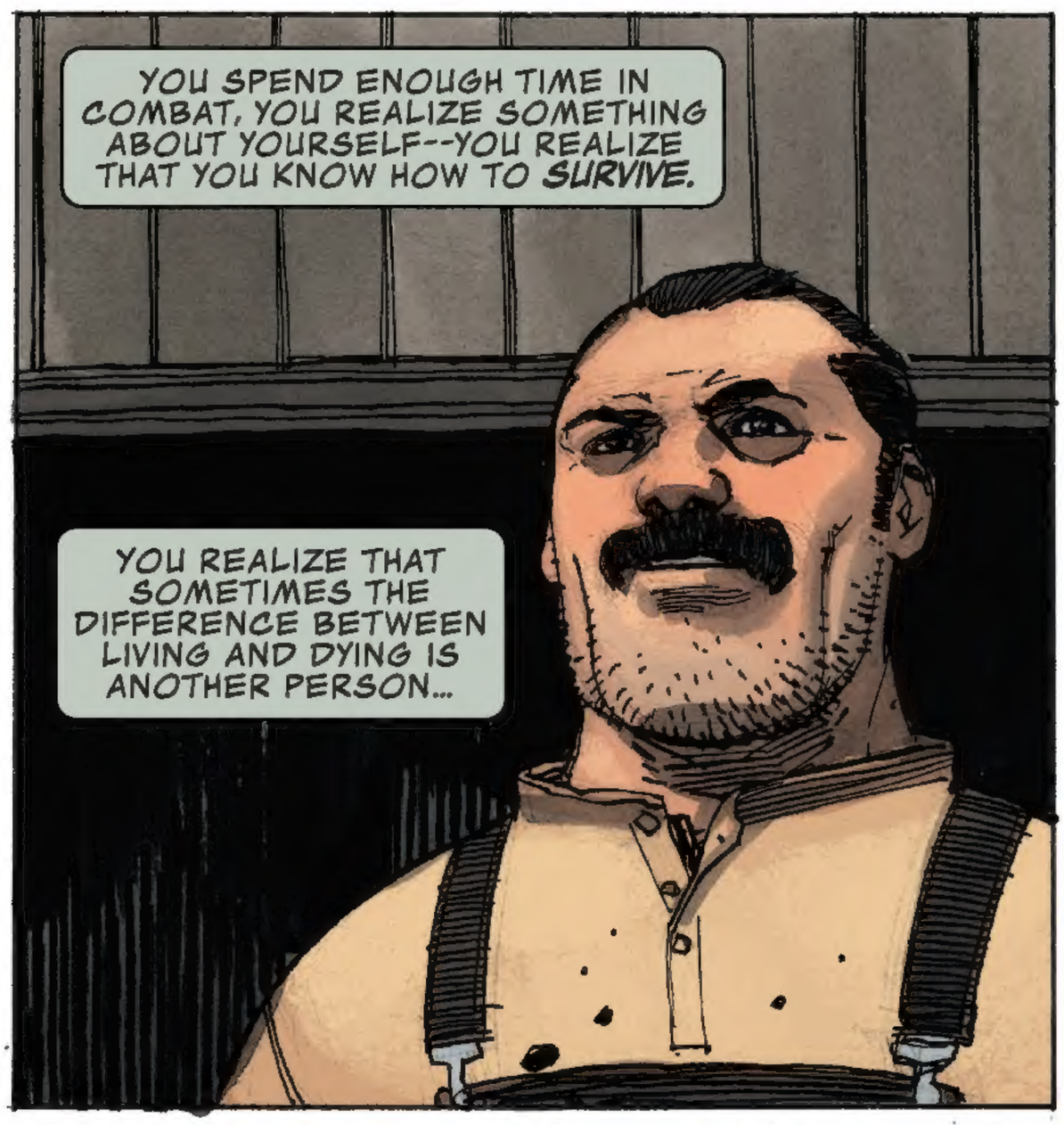

IF THAT GUY IS STUPID ENOUGH TO BELIEVE BARTON... THE THOUGHT TERRIFIES ME. I MEAN, HE DRIVES A TRUCK.
WHAT IF HE VOTES? OR REPRODUCES?
THERE IS AN INTERESTING WAY TO HOW YOUR MIND OPERATES, TILDA.
MOTEL

I KNEW IT, WOLFY--YOU'RE A SAPIOSEXUAL. AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
I'M A WHAT?
I AM SO GLAD I JOINED THIS TEAM. YOU AND ME--WE ARE SO GOING TO FIGHT SOME CRIME.

WALTER-- GET OUT HERE!
YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS!
I'M TELLING YOU...

...THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THESE STRANGERS THAT JUST PULLED INTO TOWN.
SOMETHING DANGEROUS.


OKAY, THAT'S THAT.
LOVETT & SONS
SERVICE STATION


YOU SPEND ENOUGH TIME IN COMBAT, YOU REALIZE SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF--YOU REALIZE THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO SURVIVE.
YOU REALIZE THAT SOMETIMES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIVING AND DYING IS ANOTHER PERSON...

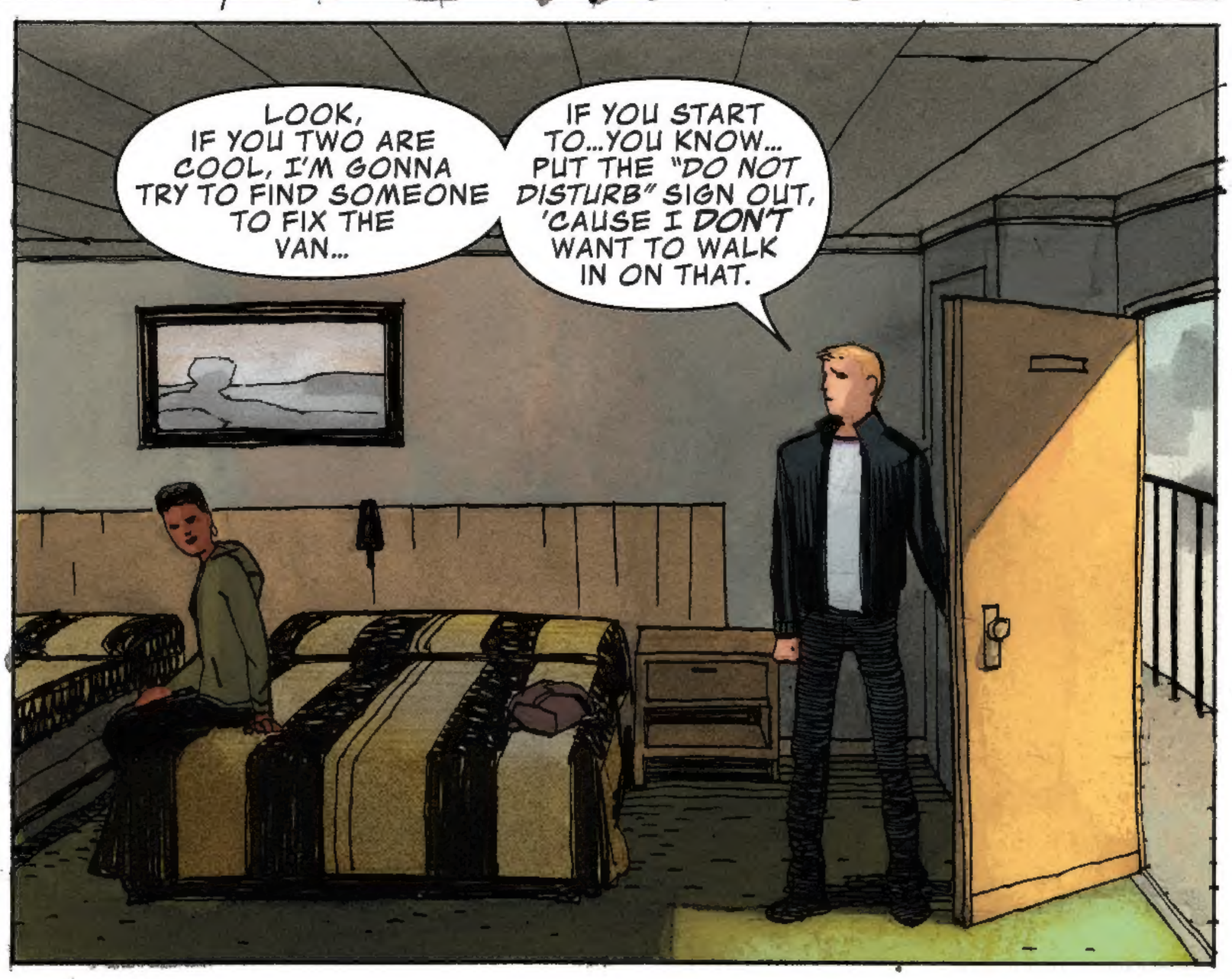
...AND YOU JUST MIGHT HAVE TO KILL THEM BEFORE THEY KILL YOU.
THAT'S THAT?
EXACTLY.
WHAT IS WHAT?
OH...YOU KNOW.

THEY'RE GOING TO WANT A ROOM...
BETTER TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM, GERTIE.
I CAN ALREADY SEE THAT THEY'RE TROUBLE, WALT.

15 MINUTES LATER.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY ONLY HAD ONE VACANT ROOM.

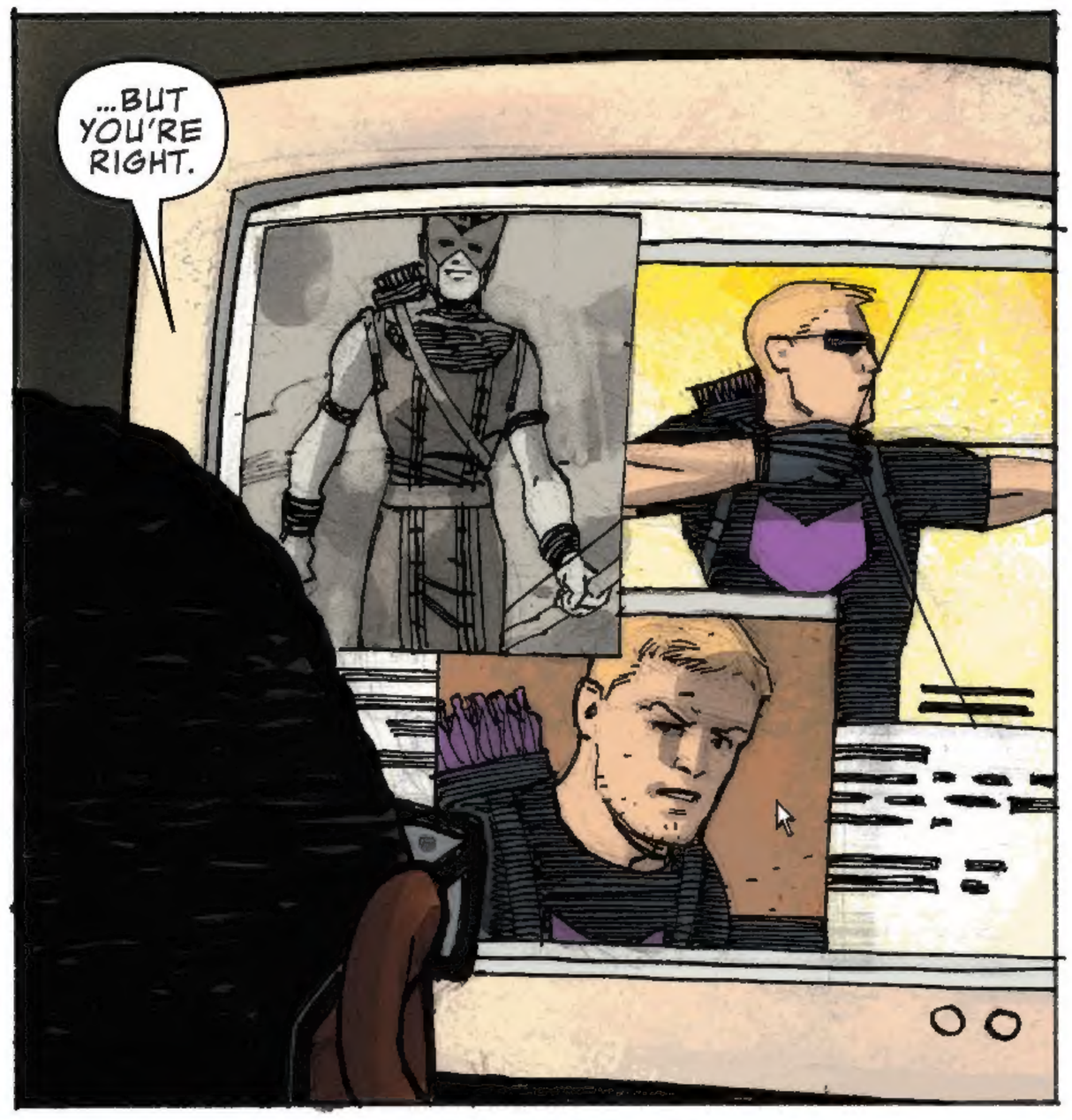
YOU'D THINK IT WAS THE ANNUAL MANURE FESTIVAL AND EVERYONE WAS COMING FROM ALL OVER TO CATCH A WHIFF OF *COW CRAP.*



MOTEL
THAT THE ONE YOU CALLED ME ABOUT, LOVETT?
THAT'S HIM. SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT ABOUT HIM...
...OR HIS FRIENDS.
GERTIE OVER AT THE MOTEL SAYS THE SAME THING. SHE'S PROBABLY GOT WALT RUNNING A BACKGROUND CHECK ON THEM RIGHT NOW...
...SAME AS THEY DO WITH EVERYONE WHO COMES THROUGH TOWN.
I'VE BEEN IN DUNGSTON FOR A LONG TIME.
AND JUST LIKE ALWAYS, IT WON'T AMOUNT TO ANYTHING.
WE'VE ALL BEEN LIVING IN FEAR OF GETTING CAUGHT FOR TOO LONG.
GO TAKE A LOOK AT THE INSIDES OF THAT VAN THEY'RE DRIVING, CHIEF.
I KNOW EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN.
AND EVERYONE KNOWS ME.
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING THE FANTASTIC FOUR WOULD DRIVE AROUND IN.
THE FANTASTIC FOUR?
WE DON'T ALL ALWAYS GET ALONG...
IN A MILLION YEARS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR WOULD NEVER COME TO DUNGSTON, IOWA.
HELL, FORCE WORKS NEVER CAME TO THIS PART OF THE STATE.
...BUT I'D GIVE MY LIFE FOR EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN.

WALT, YOU KNOW I'M NEVER WRONG ABOUT THESE THINGS...
...THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE--SOMETHING THAT FEELS OFF.

GO ON--TELL ME. TELL ME THIS IS JUST MY IMAGINATION RUNNING AWAY WITH ME.
I'D LOVE TO TELL YOU THAT, GERTIE...

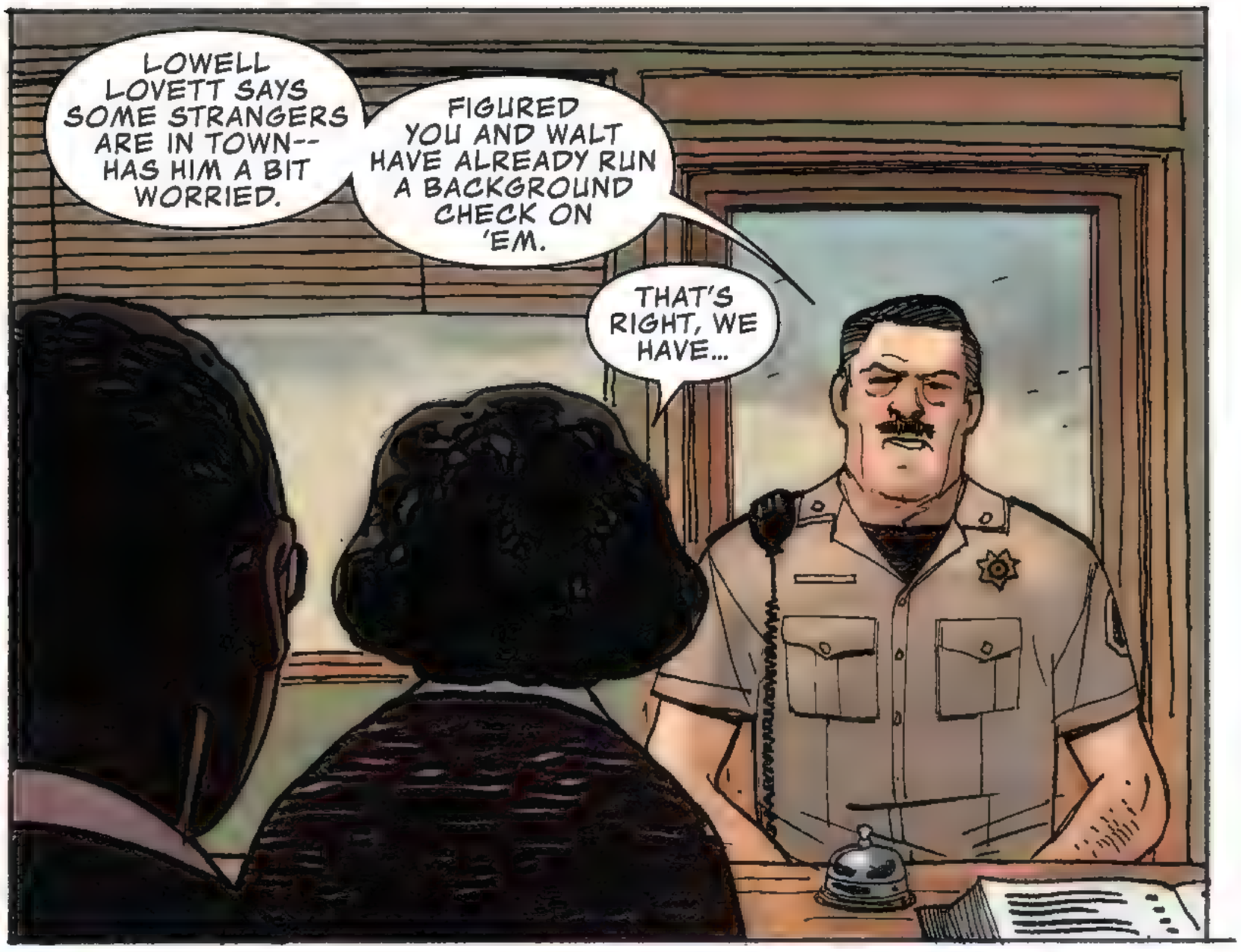

...BUT YOU'RE RIGHT.

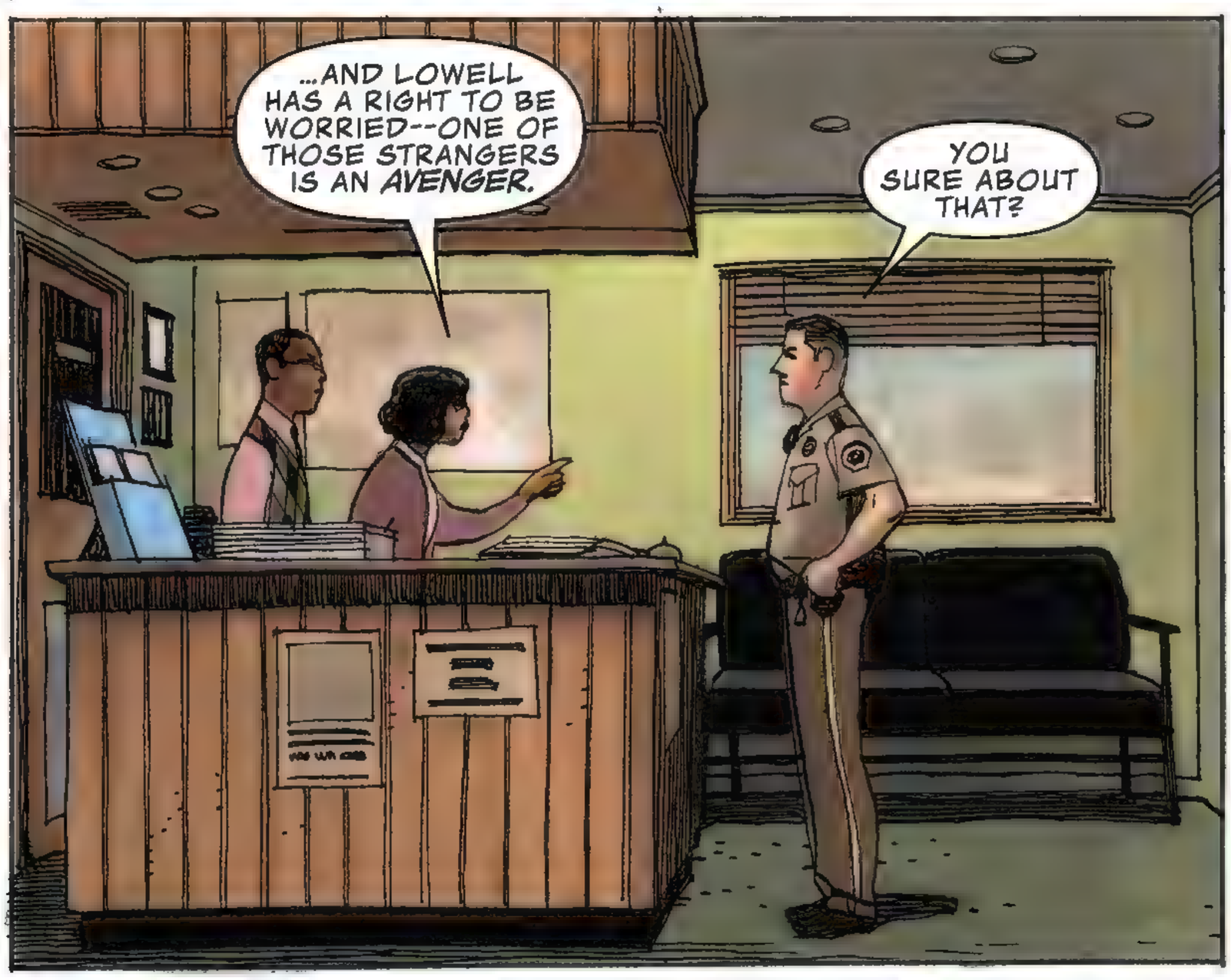
I KNEW IT! I KNEW I RECOGNIZED HIM!
HE'S THE ONE THAT KILLED BRUCE BANNER.

THIS IS BAD.
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING.

DING DING DING
SOMEONE'S IN THE LOBBY.
JUST WHAT WE NEED--MORE GUESTS. I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO PUT ON THE "NO VACANCY" SIGN.

GERTIE. WALT. THOUGHT I'D PAY YOU TWO A VISIT.


LOWELL LOVETT SAYS SOME STRANGERS ARE IN TOWN-- HAS HIM A BIT WORRIED.
FIGURED YOU AND WALT HAVE ALREADY RUN A BACKGROUND CHECK ON 'EM.
THAT'S RIGHT, WE HAVE...


...AND LOWELL HAS A RIGHT TO BE WORRIED--ONE OF THOSE STRANGERS IS AN *AVENGER.*
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

POSITIVE. NOT AN X-MAN OR ONE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR. AN *AVENGER.*
AND YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT THAT'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.

WELL, %$#@.
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
HOW DO YOU THINK HE FOUND OUT?

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW HE FOUND OUT.
THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.
WHAT *ARE* WE GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

DUDE, DO NOT START WITH ME.
YOU OWE ME.

YES, YOU OWE ME...FOR WHAT?
REMEMBER THAT ONE TIME--AT THAT PLACE?

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
SO YOU'LL COME?

NO, I CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG.
I'LL SEND SOMEONE FOR YOU.

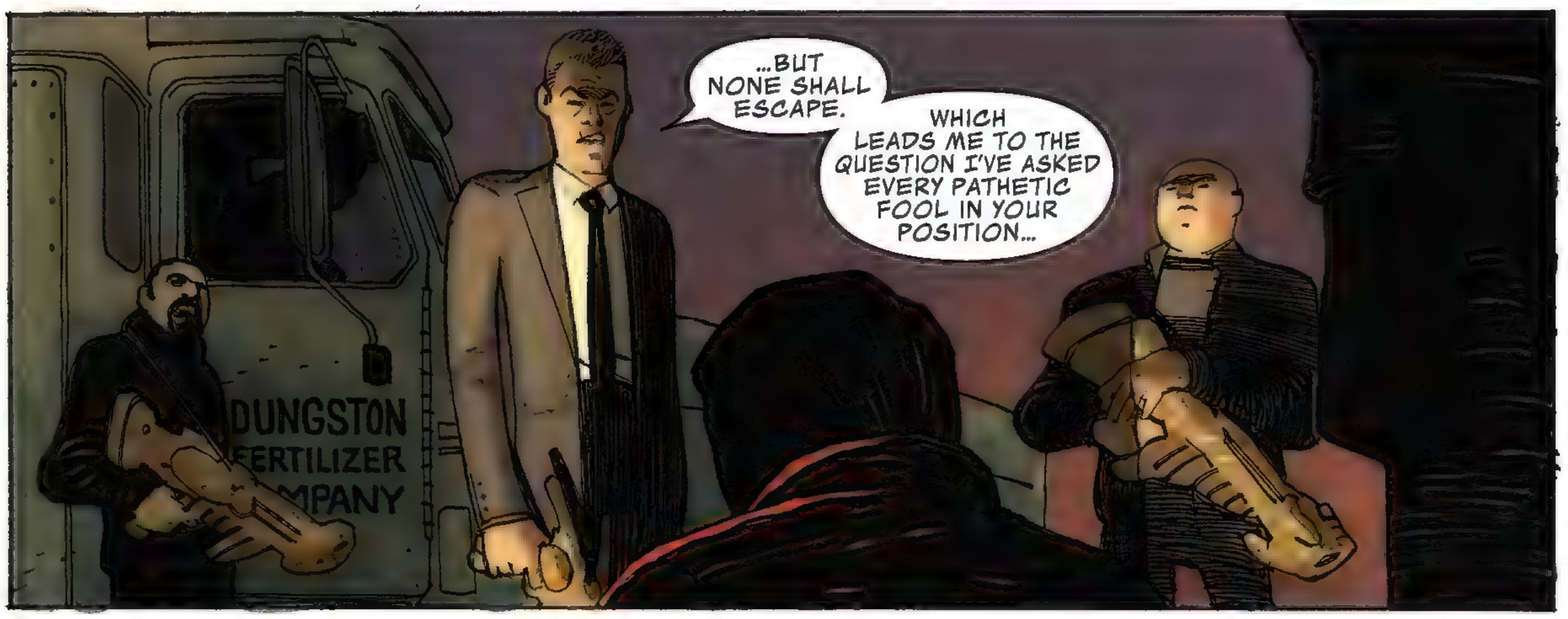
OKAY, BARTON-- YOU CAN DO THIS.

HEY, MAN, IT'S CLINT...
BARTON.
REALLY... YOU'RE NOT OVER THAT?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WANT SOMETHING?

OKAY, YES-- I DO NEED A FAVOR.
BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON I CALLED.

NEBRASKA.
HIGHWAY 20.
YOU HAD A GOOD RUN, WHICH IS BETTER THAN MOST...


...BUT NONE SHALL ESCAPE.
WHICH LEADS ME TO THE QUESTION I'VE ASKED EVERY PATHETIC FOOL IN YOUR POSITION...
DUNGSTON
FERTILIZER
MPANY

...WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

I WANT NAMES.
I WANT LOCATIONS.
BUT MOST OF ALL, I WANT TO END THIS GAME AND GO HOME.

SCREW YOU.

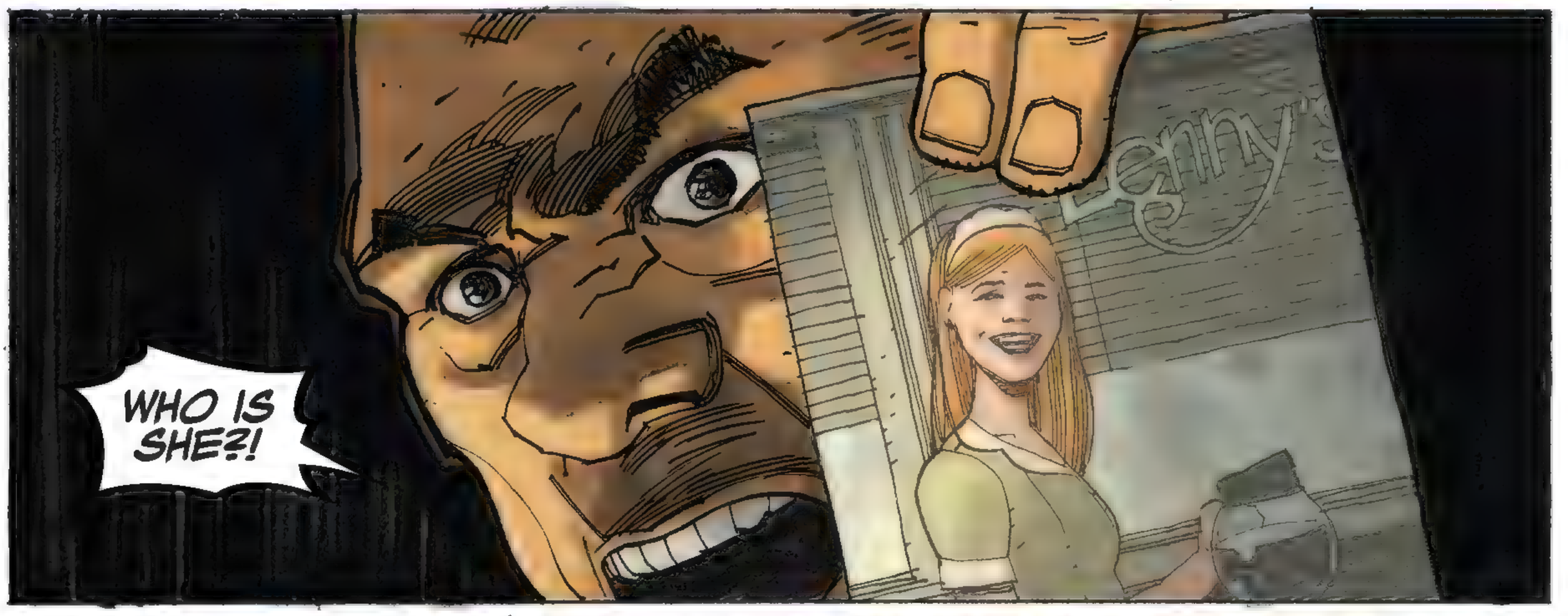
PLAYING THE PART TO THE BITTER END. I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS ADMIRABLE OR PATHETIC.
WE FOUND SOMETHING...

GOOD WORK.
SEE WHAT ELSE YOU CAN DIG UP.

HMMMM...

NICE PHOTO.
WHO IS SHE?

SHE'S NOBODY! JUST A FRIEND.
SHE'S NOT ONE OF...


WHO IS SHE?!

HAVE IT YOUR WAY.
ZABLAAAST

WE'LL FIND HER WITHOUT YOU.

C'MON... WHERE ARE YOU?

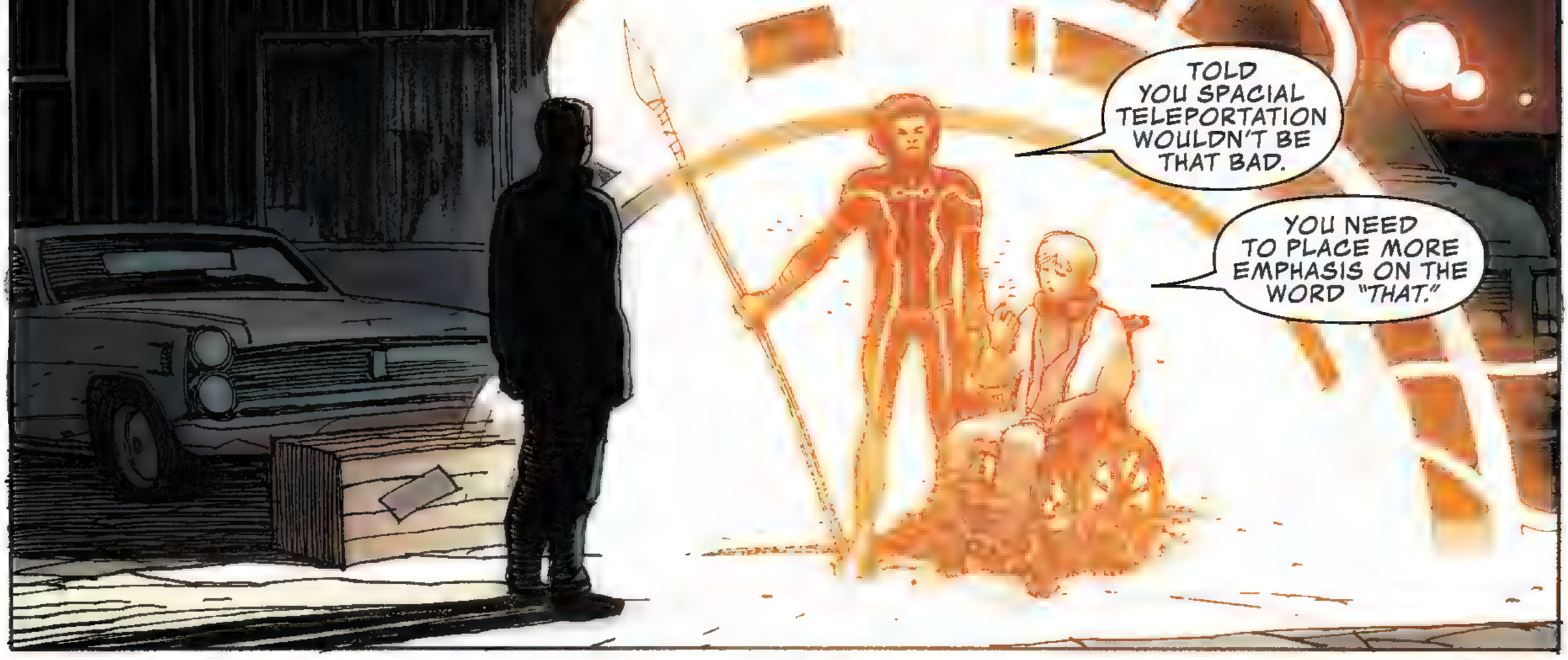
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, MR. HULK-KILLING AVENGER?

FINALLY...
HEY, MANIFOLD.
WHERE IS IT?

IT'S ALL THERE. SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG TO PAY YOU BACK.

BE RIGHT BACK.

WALT, GET OUT HERE--YOU NEED TO SEE THIS.

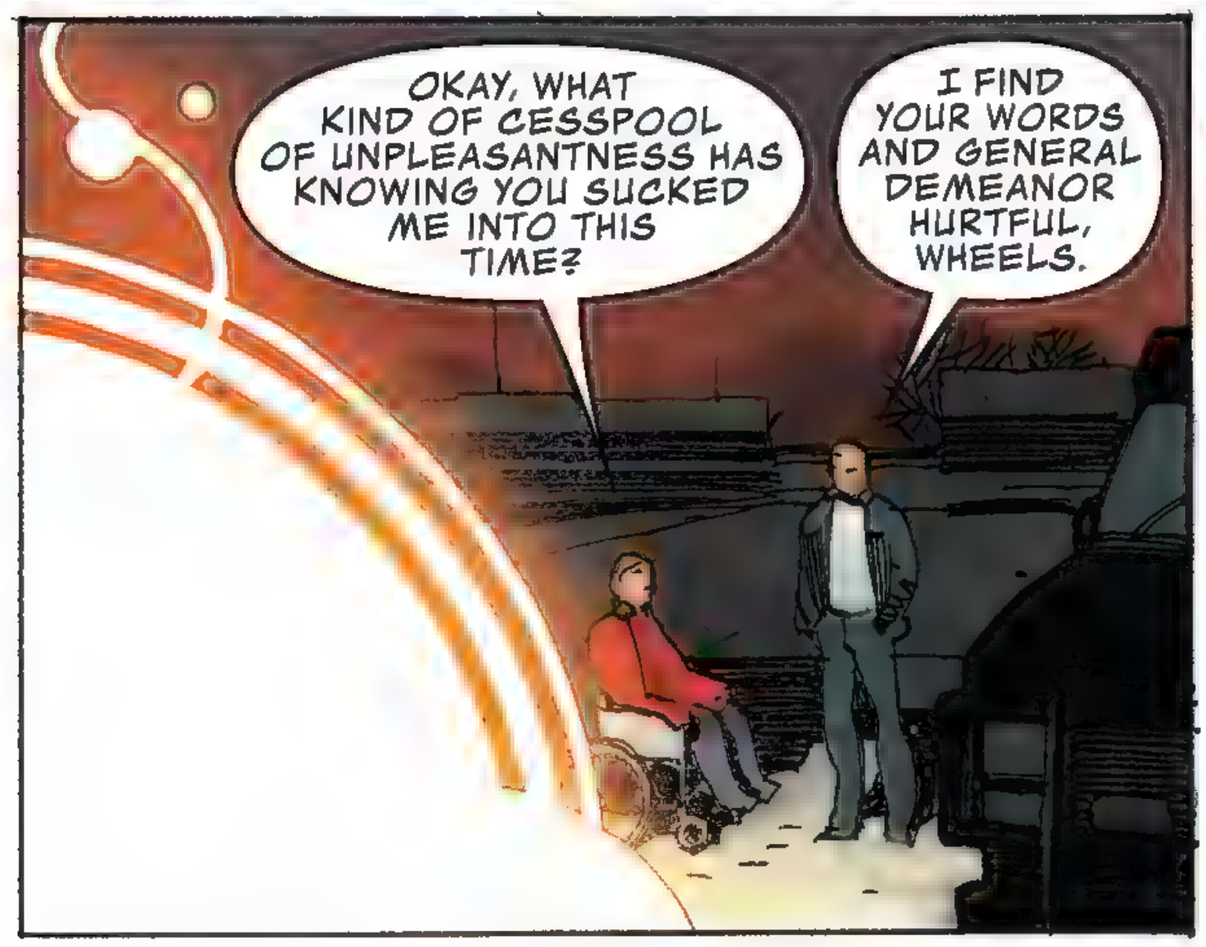

TOLD YOU SPACIAL TELEPORTATION WOULDN'T BE THAT BAD.
YOU NEED TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON THE WORD "THAT."

WHEELS WOLINSKI, MY MAN--IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.
YOU TOO, MANIFOLD. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING ME WITH THIS...

I'M NOT HELPING YOU, BARTON. I'M COLLECTING THE MONEY YOU OWED ME.
YOU LOANED HIM MONEY? EVEN I HAVE MORE COMMON SENSE THAN THAT.

WOLINKSI, I'M STANDING RIGHT HERE.

IF THIS GUY GETS YOU INTO TROUBLE YOU CAN'T HANDLE, CALL ME AND I'LL COME GET YOU. AND I WON'T ASK YOU TO REPAY THE FAVOR.
MUCH APPRECIATED. THIS IS THE DANGER OF OWING CLINT BARTON A FAVOR--YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN HE'S GOING TO CASH IT IN.
I CAN HEAR YOU.


OKAY, WHAT KIND OF CESSPOOL OF UNPLEASANTNESS HAS KNOWING YOU SUCKED ME INTO THIS TIME?
I FIND YOUR WORDS AND GENERAL DEMEANOR HURTFUL, WHEELS.

WALT--THERE'S ANOTHER ONE! HE'S IN A WHEELCHAIR--I THINK IT'S THE GUY FROM THE X-MEN.
IT'S OKAY, GERTIE. I'VE CALLED THE OTHERS--I TOLD THEM TO MEET US IN AN HOUR.

ONE HOUR LATER.

WE ALL KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN SOMEDAY...

I'VE BEEN A LOT OF PLACES--SO MANY PLACES, MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME.

BUT NO MATTER WHERE I'M FROM, DUNGSTON IS MY HOME.

AND THE MOMENT I DECIDED THAT THIS WAS WHERE I WOULD SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE... WELL...I MADE A DECISION.

...WE HOPED AND WE PRAYED THAT IT WOULD NEVER COME TO THIS.

BUT IT HAS...

...AND NOW WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT--JUST LIKE WE ALWAYS KNEW MIGHT BE THE CASE.

GERTIE, THAT'S ENOUGH NOW...

...THE LAST THING WE NEED TO DO IS PANIC.

WE NEED TO KEEP CALM.

I'M CALM, CHIEF. CALM AS I'VE EVER BEEN.

AND I SAY WE NEED TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

IT'S THEM OR US.

I DECIDED I'D KILL TO PROTECT MY HOME.

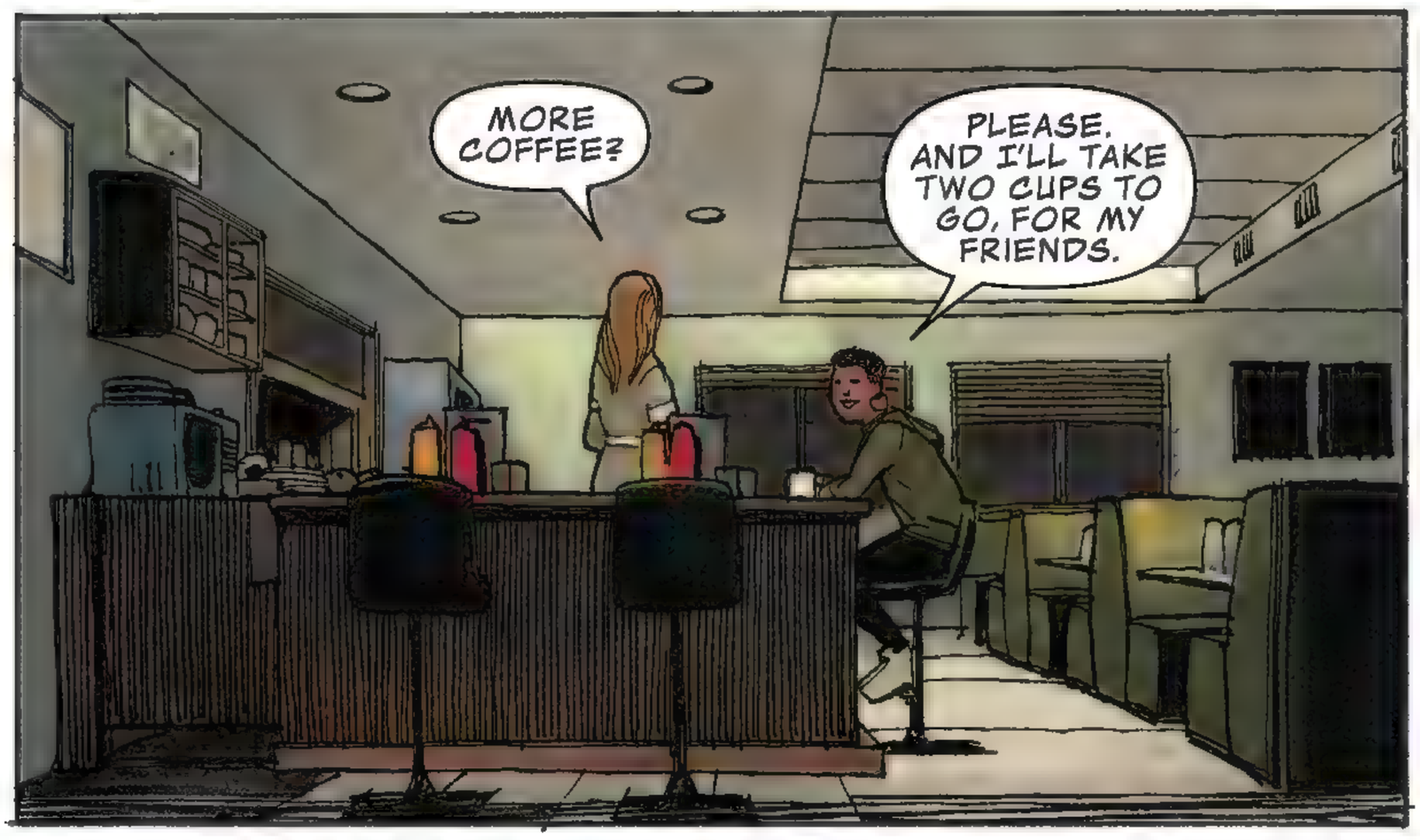
THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

WE ALL MADE THE DECISION TO LEAVE "THEM AND US" THINKING BEHIND.

WE'VE ALL LOST TOO MUCH BECAUSE OF "THEM AND US."

...NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE TO ME. SOME OF THIS STUFF ISN'T EVEN WRITTEN IN A LANGUAGE NATIVE TO EARTH.
WHEELS, YOU'RE THE BEST MECHANIC IN THE WORLD. IF IT RUNS ON AN ENGINE, YOU CAN FIX IT.

I APPRECIATE THE SMOKE YOU'RE BLOWING UP MY BUTT--IT TICKLES.
BUT THIS IS BEYOND MY EXPERTISE.


MORE COFFEE?
PLEASE. AND I'LL TAKE TWO CUPS TO GO, FOR MY FRIENDS.

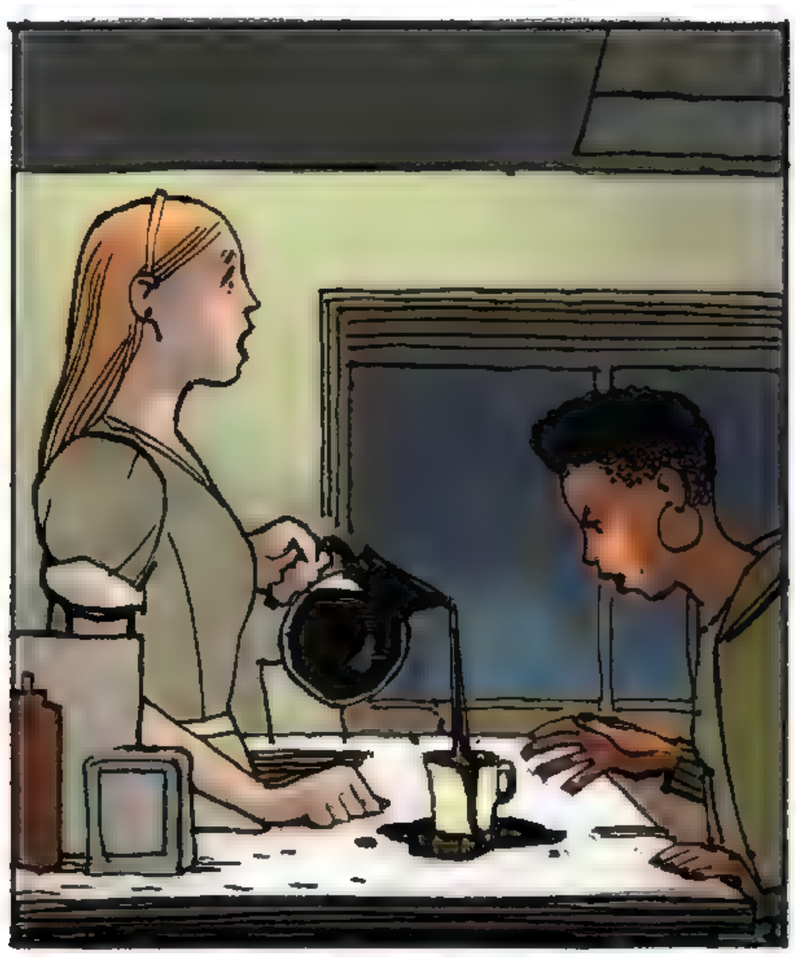
YOU GOT IT.
IRIS
Lenny's

THIS IS IT.

Welcome to
DUNGSTON
THAT'S THE SMELL OF MONEY!!
TIME TO MAKE AMENDS.

WHEELS, IF THERE WERE ANYONE BETTER SUITED FOR THIS JOB, I'D'VE BROUGHT THEM IN.
BUT YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I KNOW...
I KNEW THE MOMENT I SAW HIM...

...THERE'S NO ONE BETTER THAN WHEELS WOLINSKI.
...HE WAS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.



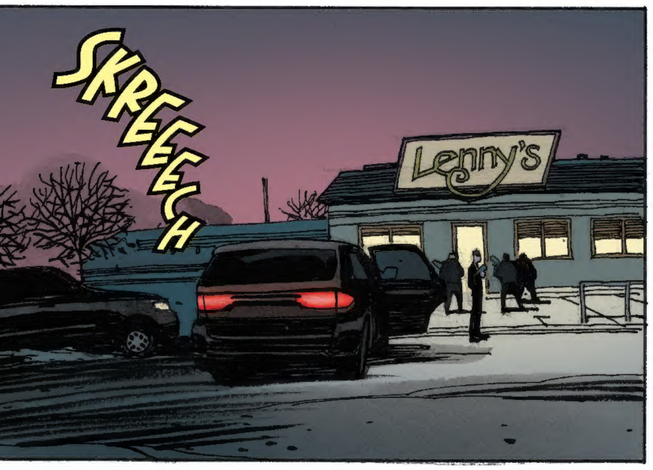
HEY...

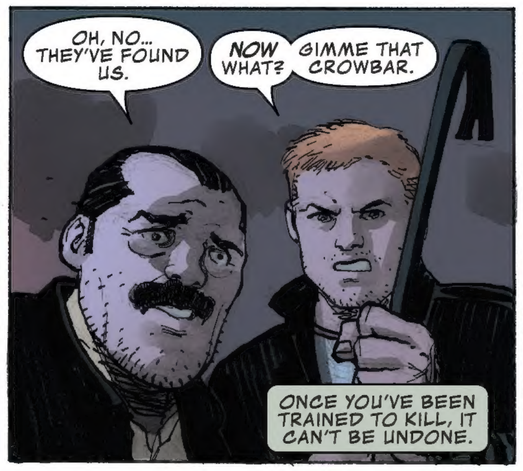
WHAT THE--?!
I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE!
I'VE SPENT YEARS WAITING FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN.

Y'ALL BETTER HAVE REALLY GOOD AIM...

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, GOOBER?
I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY WHAT WE'VE BUILT HERE.
I STOPPED FIGHTING THEIR WAR, BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE BATTLE TO COME.

BETTER START SHOOTING NOW--'CAUSE I'M FIXIN' TO BLEED ALL THREE OF YOU.

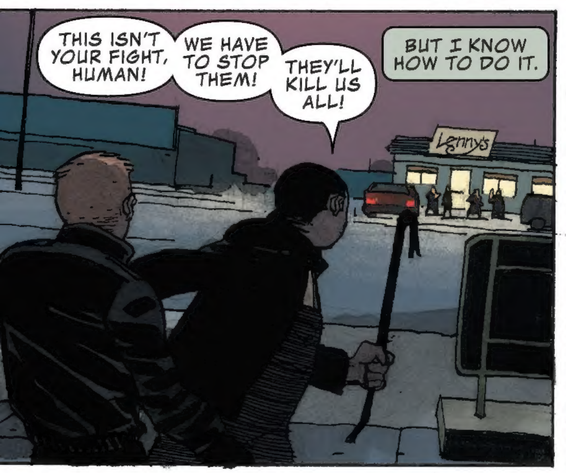

SKREEECH
Lenny's

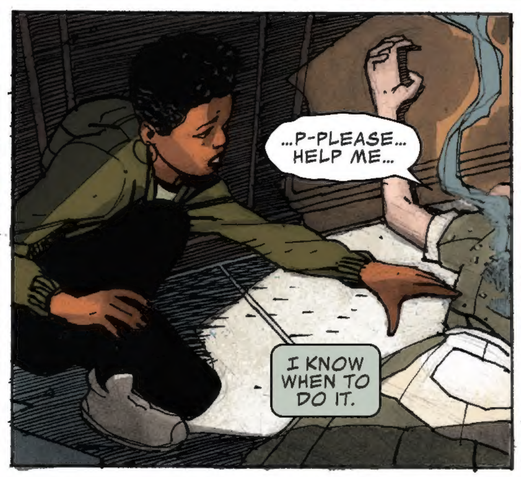

OH, NO... THEY'VE FOUND US.
NOW WHAT?
GIMME THAT CROWBAR.
ONCE YOU'VE BEEN TRAINED TO KILL, IT CAN'T BE UNDONE.

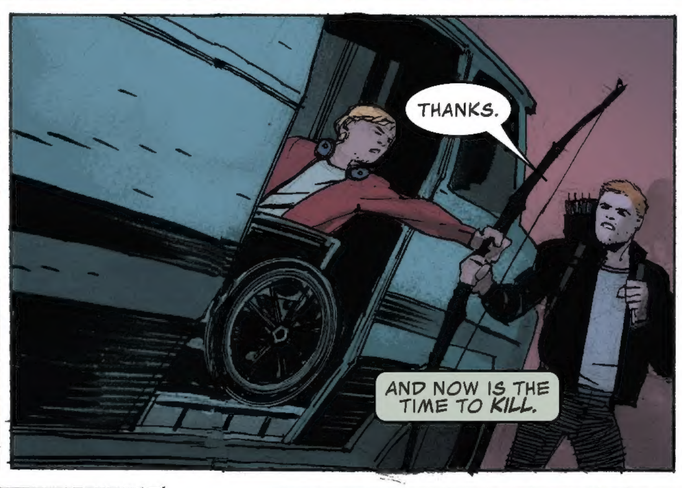
IT'S A TERRIBLE SKILL TO HAVE... UNTIL IT ISN'T.

GET DOWN!
KILLING ISN'T EASY.

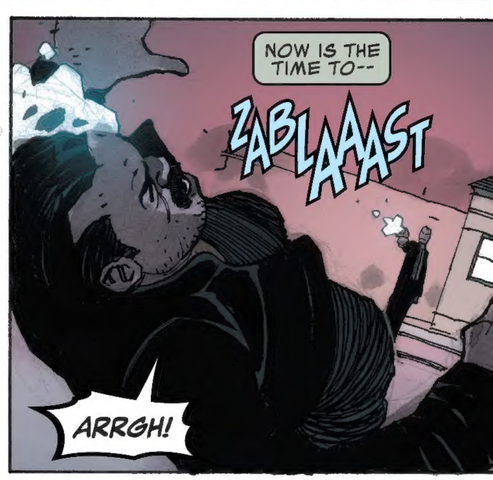
ZABLAAAST
...URK...
I HATE KILLING.


THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT, HUMAN!
WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!
THEY'LL KILL US ALL!
BUT I KNOW HOW TO DO IT.
Lennys


...P-PLEASE... HELP ME...
I KNOW WHEN TO DO IT.


THANKS.
AND NOW IS THE TIME TO KILL.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT!
TRAITOR!

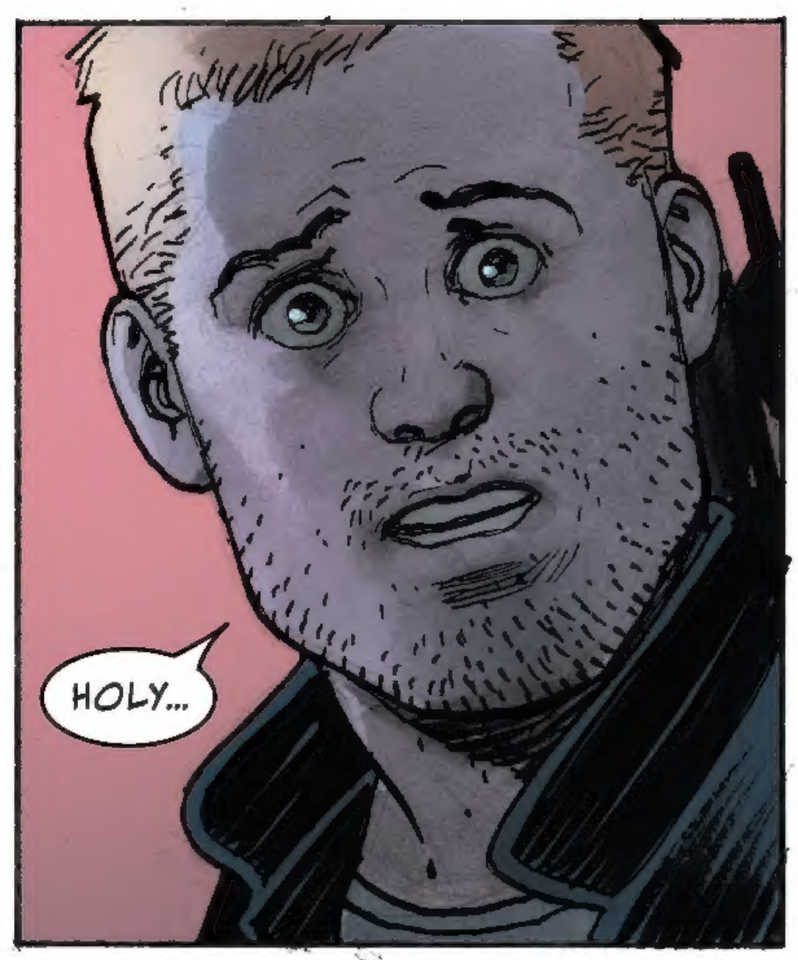

NOW IS THE TIME TO--
ZABLAAAST
ARRGH!

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

HOLD ON, LITTLE LADY...

WHAT...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...HELP ME...



TO BE CONTINUED...

OCCUPY THE LETTERS PAGE!

I have another Marvel Comic I enjoy! What is it about the Hawkeyes? I've been reading comics since 1970 and this is the first time I've cared about the character. First Matt Fraction's series, now Kelly Thompson's and David F. Walker's. Super heroes "Looking for wrongs to right" are just the kind of heroes I'd prefer to see, and on the street in the milieu is where I'd like to see 'em. So having the old Nick Fury show up is not so promising to me--but I'm three issues in and I'm enjoying this so far, and happy to have this Hawkeye to follow, too. And a letters page! Letter-writers long ago taught me a lot about the comics I read; I'm happy to have the chance to learn more here!

Best wishes,
Matt Levin
Hatfield, MA

Now I feel the pressure to share something insightful so you can learn something. Okay…here goes, the characters of Silas and Frank Fireheart in the first two issues were inspired by two characters in W.P. Kinsella's book, *Dance Me Outside.* Until now, I haven't told anyone.

Hey, creators!

I'm liking Clint Barton's latest adventures and the different focus you all have given to the book. There needs to be diversity of tone in Marvel's offerings, and OCCUPY AVENGERS is a great part of that!

Pacheco, Fonteriz, Oback and Quintana are producing eye-arresting art here! Thanks for that. Maybe I'm a snob, but I always prefer movie-realistic visuals; they just seem to say the comic's creators are taking the book seriously.

Hawkeye and Red Wolf are a two-pound bag of peanut M&M's, as far as eye candy goes! Wow! As I wrote a few months ago to the team over at ANT-MAN (in regards to The Magician): guys with long hair are awesome and I'll buy pretty much any comic that includes them! However far you wanna push the bromance between Hawk and Wolf, I will follow along! (GREAT cover for issue #3: any guys making contact with each other that ISN'T punching is a very welcome visual!)

David F. Walker is more than holding up his end on the writing side of the equation. I'd definitely recommend he keep his focus on the two main guys traveling around (maybe Flint, Michigan?) and having only temporary teammates in each locale. I think the stories have been excellent, exploring Clint at an interesting point in his life, away from Mockingbird, et alia. I hope we'll get to find out more about Red Wolf as well. He's a new character (to me) and I look forward to his take on present-day America!

Thank you, one and all, for such a terrific product!

Sincerely,
Eric Baysinger

As someone whose hairline has receded as far back as humanly possible, I like writing comics about characters with long hair. People ask me all the time, "If you could have one power, what would it be?" It would be the power to grow my hair back.

Greetings, Mr. Walker,

I'm just dropping by to compliment you and your team on your recent comic book, OCCUPY AVENGERS. Months ago (before CIVIL WAR II's Banner incident), someone asked me what Marvel comic I would like to read next. It could have been anything. My answer was: "I think Clint should go on a road trip again. It was great the first time, and with some other heroines it could be even better."

And here we are, about a year or more later, with OCCUPY AVENGERS.

I really enjoy the pacing so far. There is enough room for character interactions AND social issues and yet we always get plenty of action, too. My only issue so far, if you can even call it one, was how easily a guy who was once leading the New Avengers into battle as Ronin, dropping ninjas and super villains left and right in melee combat, was beaten up by Nighthawk in issue #3. But that's just me being a fanboy, and the Steve Rogers reference definitely made up for it anyway.

So keep on doing what you are doing. You already made me very interested in Red Wolf and Nightshade too, and if I'm not reading too much into some dialogue and visual references regarding a certain mask, you might be going for something very, very awesome down the line which I would be a fan of.

Cheers from Austria!
Matt Eduardson

I just assumed that Nighthawk got the better of Clint because Clint was pulling his punches. Or maybe Nighthawk is just tougher than anyone realizes. Either way, it gives us all something to ponder.

Hello,

It's been a long time since I wrote to a comic book letters page. Now that they are returning, I wanted to give my two cents on OCCUPY AVENGERS.

When I saw the preview picture for this book, I knew it was going to be different. Clint Barton standing with regular people gave the impression that he would be dealing with threats on a more down-to-earth level--dealing with real people and real problems instead of the cosmic menace of the week as other Avengers seem to do. John and Jane Q. The public is part of this series instead of being in the background. And when powers are involved, Hawkeye and Red Wolf just have their wits and skills to save the day. I love this approach and hope to see more of it.

That being said, you said there would be more on Hawkeye's team. I'd like to make a recommendation. She's a character from the Dan Ketch GHOST RIDER series who could be a lot like Hawkeye. She fired a gun at the demon Zarathos, challenging his claim of hopeless causes by saying there was no such thing. She betrayed the man she loved for the law she served only to be betrayed in turn, and went into hiding, forced to abandon her badge when she discovered an old government secret. This person is Stacy Dolan.

She's dealt with weird events in the MCU before. She has no powers to speak of and she's basically an outcast right now, much like Clint is. She also could learn a lot from him, including ways to fight that don't always use guns or nightsticks. Even if she doesn't join Hawkeye's team, I think it would be nice to see her somewhere down the line.

Food for thought. Hope it is worth considering. Take care, hope the great stories keep coming.

Sincerely,
John Chubb

There have been a lot of suggestions for team members, but I have to say, this is the one that surprised me the most. I'd like to think that the next member to join the team (in #5), will surprise everyone. And don't get me started on who will be joining the team around issue #8 or #9.

-David

NEXT ISSUE:

UNDER SIEGE!

ZONE